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Tapestry

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College of DuPage

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TAPESTRY

Pat Brown

If it were like a tapestry — cyan, rose,
Magenta, umber, slate, sienna floss
Entwined to pave an esplanade, impose
Gravid balusters along its edge, then toss
A tabard on the rail, trail a garland from
The newel post behind the Prince, head inclined,
Left hand resting on his sheathed rapier's hilt, a numb
Near-smile for the brittle *signorina*, resigned,
Her left hand open "So . . . ?", cheeks a peevish tinge,
Beside her rat-faced page, preening lankish hair,
Leering at some folderol beyond the fringe,
Beyond the gondolier trolling for a fare —
And one wild magenta thread dangled from the weft:
Would you yank that strand, and chance to see what's left?